

BOB CONSIDINE

Why Der Stern

THE EDITOR of Der Stern, the popular West German magazine that balked at deletions and alterations demanded by the Kennedy family in the serialization of the Manchester book, gave his reasons in a recent editorial.

Henri Nannen, the editor, retorted at length after being subjected to strong pressures brought to bear on him by representatives of Look Magazine, at the request of the Kennedys, to make the same corrections Look consented to make. Der Stern had paid Look \$60,000 for the German rights and Nannen would not agree that he was bound by the same restrictions.

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"IN THE LAST WEEKS I could only think of Jacqueline Kennedy with a little emotion," Nannen's editorial begins. "Not because of the very touching message in which she asked me to leave unwanted passages out of Manchester's manuscript. That may have been prepared for her by a clever lawyer and he had exaggerated a little the feelings of his employer.

"I belonged to a small dozen of newspapermen in Europe who have read the whole manuscript. Every morning,

therefore, I found it remarkable to read in the world press the sensations which were presumably behind the demanded deletions. That was not only remarkable; it was at the same time touching.

"Remarkable, because the clumsiness with which Sen. Robert Kennedy handled this case corresponded not at all to the political style of this outstanding family. Did he really think he could manipulate all the quarrels between the Kennedy clan and Johnson supporters out of Manchester's writing—only so that Johnson would keep the President's chair warm for him for another four years?

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"WHEN MY COLLEAGUE, William Attwood (publisher, Look) refused to agree to political omissions, he did not even receive a Christmas card from Sen. Kennedy anymore. Attwood had been an old friend of the family. But he finally made peace with the senator. Of the 7,000 words which the Kennedys wanted eliminated, 1,600 stayed in the end, a few political passages, personal descriptions, personal politics. So much for politics. Now—

"Was it really so terrible what was

Balked at Censors

in Manchester's manuscript, and now at Jacqueline's wish, should not be printed? Did it touch her intimate life? Who could have refused a woman the wish not to see such passages published?

"But such changes! There was, for example, the wrinkle she discovered in her face—the first one. And that had to be extinguished for 'she found she looked tired.' As her secretary Mary Gallagher took out the contents of Jackie's purse—lipstick, comb, handkerchief, sunglasses and cigarettes—now Mrs. Kennedy wanted the cigarettes not to be mentioned, we were told.

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"AND WHERE in her interview she needs a good hour before the mirror, now it has to read: 'She needed a long time before she got through with it all.' Ridiculous? No, she is a woman, like others. Only an inhuman fate put her in a situation where she seems to believe she is not allowed to react humanly. And too human, too feminine, she wants to carry through and join her emotional objections with the ambitions of her brother-in-law.

"It did not help that I protested it

would be best to publish all, to show that William Manchester, so highly appreciated by John F. Kennedy, never deserted the borders of human respect. Then the Kennedys came to my rescue, in a sense: they went to court. They did not press charges personally, but commissioned Look to forbid Der Stern further publication of the unabridged 'Death of a President.' The Kennedy lawyers worked in the background.

"The Statecourt Hamburg would not allow the Kennedy family to censor Der Stern. The expenses, 26,000 marks for one session, had to be paid by the opponents.

"Now at last, free of political pressure and not threatened by court procedures, I can voluntarily fulfill Mrs. Kennedy's wish, which she thought she had to enforce. Der Stern otherwise will continue to publish this account unabridged and unchanged, including of course the politically and historically interesting pages which Sen. Kennedy succeeded in having omitted from the American text. We have not opposed every political censor so long to bow now, in the twilight, to arbitrary concession."